



Farm Machinery Hazard Awareness

West Virginia University
Environmental Health and Safety



Six Common Farm Machinery Hazards

1. **Wrap Points** – created by exposed and rotating shafts such as unguarded power take-offs.
2. **Hydraulic Systems** – high-pressure farm machinery systems that store and discharge significant energy.
3. **Pinch Points** – created by gears, sprockets, sprocket chain drives, belt and pulley drives, and feed rolls.
4. **Shear and Cutting Points** – created by sickle bars, rotary blades, flail blades, forage harvester heads, and grain augers.
5. **Crush Points** – created by two machinery parts moving toward each other or when a piece of machinery moves toward something stationary.
6. **Thrown Objects** – caused by powered farm machinery and includes ejected or propelled stones, sticks, dirt, straw, chaff, chopped stalks, and other objects.



Safety Precautions for Working Around Farm Machinery Hazards

- Be aware of farm machinery hazards in the work environment.
- Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry in the vicinity of farm machinery hazards. Tie back long hair or wear under a cap.
- As necessary, wear eye, hearing, and respiratory protection when using farm machinery.
- Assure all covers, shields, and guards for farm machinery hazards are in place.
- Never reach or step across rotating mechanical parts. Keep extremities clear of operating mechanical parts.
- Be alert whenever you place your body or extremities between farm machinery and other objects.
- Never walk or stand behind operating farm machinery, particularly where crop waste discharges from spreaders or other chutes.
- Shut the engine off, set the parking brake, and completely de-energize farm machinery before performing repairs, service, and adjustments or cleaning or unclogging mechanical parts.